

COMPROMISES



After compromising for five months in Paris to satisfy the interests of other nations—



—he ought to be able to compromise now to satisfy the interests of his own.

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—Chicago Tribune.

Discuss Issues and Leaders for 1920

(Continued from Page 9)

T. H. Baum, North Carolina.—In response to your request relative to issues and candidates for the next campaign, I beg to say that as to issues I am not prepared to say what is best to adopt along this line, but of one thing I am sure so far as human knowledge can be, and that is that the best and only man I believe can do it is W. J. Bryan, for our next nominee on the democratic ticket for president. I am willing to trust issues to him, as I am sure he will not accept a platform that is not in the whole interest of the people. For the past twenty years I have staked my hope on Mr. Bryan, and of one thing I am sure, he has made fewer mistakes in what he has advocated than any man in public life today. He can see and think about twenty years ahead of his average countryman; hence, I be-

lieve him the best fitted man to head our ticket, and I am sure if he cannot be elected at this time that no other man in the democratic party can, so let's have Mr. Bryan for our next president. It would fulfill the greatest desire of my life in a political way to see him in the White House, where he ought to be now. I believe my second choice would be the present attorney-general, Mr. Palmer, or Joseph W. Folk, both great and good men.

E. A. Grover, Wisconsin.—It seems to me that the time has again arrived when democrats everywhere should arise as one man and call our great commoner, William J. Bryan, to again lead the party, using every honest means at our command to help him lead the party to victory. Mr. Bryan, of all men, should have been the one to go over the ocean to make the peace treaty. Time has vindicated the issue of silver as a money standard, and all the issues in his three platforms on which he was defeated. Is it not now time to vin-

dicate Mr. Bryan himself by letting the world know he is the leader of the democratic party? I see Mr. Lodge says he wants the peace treaty to go before the people as a party issue. By all means, let the democrats make it an issue, with Mr. Bryan the candidate; then who can doubt the result. All democrats, all temperance men regardless of party, all the noble women who have done so much to dethrone John Barleycorn, all laboring men and women struggling to better their condition, all will be found marching under Mr. Bryan's banners. And when the coming campaign has been brought to a close I believe he will have been elected by the greatest majority ever given a presidential candidate.

J. N. Welsh, Illinois.—In answer to your request for a choice in 1920 for president, will say that our first is W. J. Bryan, and, next, the man that he will indorse. I did hope that Senator Stone would live to run, but there are just as good men left, among them are Daniels, Baker, Kitchen and others, but first is W. J. Bryan.

A. H. Tidball, M. D., Ohio.—If the democratic convention nominates W. J. Bryan as their candidate for president in 1920 he will be elected. There is no other choice among the many great men in our party who can begin to poll the voters that he can. If every democrat had been a subscriber for The Commoner in any one of the last eight years this question would not be asked now. I have been reading The Commoner ever since it was published. There is not a law governing our country that he has not advocated. His wonderful ability, his purity of character, his continuous advocacy of right and his battle against everything wrong, stamps him as the man to nominate. Look at his position on the railroad question, on the question of temperance, on the question of woman suffrage, his fight for the laboring man, his fight for the farmers, his position on government finance, his position on initiative, referendum and recall, and all the great measures adopted and approved by the government. Many think Ohio will poll the pivotal vote in the election. Bryan would sweep this state.

C. W. Simpson, Texas.—As to my choice for next president, I wish to say that W. J. Bryan is the man for many reasons. Stress highways, farming interests, education, death to disloyalty, etc., in the platform.

J. Karl Gordon, Illinois.—W. J. Bryan is my choice for the democratic nomination for the presidency. What would the democratic party be without him? Where would our party be today had it not been for his heroic efforts in the Baltimore convention in 1912? Mr. Halloway, of Mississippi, says he thinks President Wilson has wrecked the democratic party and Mr. Burleson by his acts has driven thousands from it. Let our convention nominate Bryan and he will repair the broken parts and bring tens of thousands into the democratic fold.

RAILROAD EMPLOYES OPPOSE ESCH BILL

Washington dispatch, dated Nov. 12 says: Emphatic disapproval of the Esch railroad reorganization bill, now before the house, was expressed by the chief executive of the thirteen principal railroad employees organizations today in a statement which declared that "so far as the labor provisions of the bill are concerned they are more vicious and more subtle than the labor provisions of the Cummins bill."

The railway workers official in their statement accused those who

framed the Esch measure as being actuated with a desire to "shackle labor." Request was made that the railroads be held under federal control for an additional two years, the union chiefs declaring "that labor is willing to accept the judgment of the American voters as expressed at a general election."

While endorsed by three of the "big four" brotherhoods and by ten other railway employees' organizations, the statement failed to receive the endorsement of L. F. Shephard, chief of the Brotherhood of Conductors. Mr. Shephard was understood to take the position that the Esch bill, although unsatisfactory to railroad employees, was not more inimical to them than the Cummins bill, recently reported to the senate.

The statement issued follows:

"The Esch bill is a conscienceless betrayal of the public interests. That its supporters realize it was not the kind of legislation that will bear the light of honest criticism is demonstrated by the way in which the bill has been handled in the house.

"It validates approximately twenty billion dollars of railway securities, at least eight billions of which is water, and directs the inter-state commerce commission to tax the American people through an increase in freight and passenger rates to pay dividends on those 'shadow dollars' that means, according to Interstate Commerce Commissioner Woolley, at least a 25 per cent increase in rates. Such an increase would take one billion dollars from shippers and add from three to five billions to what consumers pay for the necessities of life.

"It guarantees the present exorbitant rates for the railroads under present federal control and then in order that there may be no complaint from big business provides similar generous rentals for the short lines which are under federal control.

"It opens the doors of the federal treasury to the railroads in order that they may be refinanced with public funds.

"If a similar scheme were proposed for the purpose of aiding the farmers or the city workers those who sponsored it would be denounced as Bolsheviks and the country would be told they were attempting to overturn republican institutions.

"If the people of this country—the farmers, the small business man, the professional men and the organized

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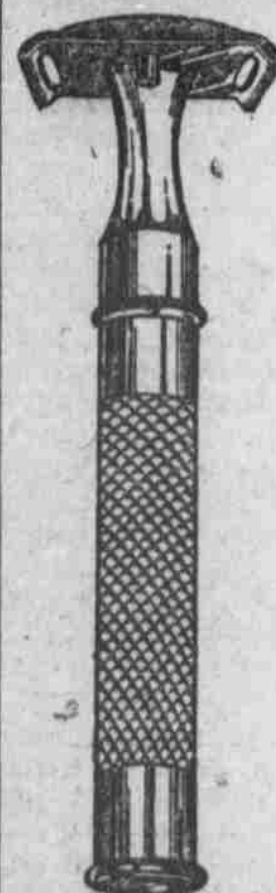
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